

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carus in view of Shapiro. With respect to claim 1, the Examiner concedes that Carus does not “specifically teach assigning weights to the breakpoints in the natural language input.” Claim 1 has been amended to clarify more specifically how weights are assigned in the claimed invention. Specifically, the assignment of weights involves “combining a probability that characters preceding each breakpoint end a word and a probability that characters following the breakpoint start a word to assign weights to the breakpoints in the natural language input.” This description is supported and explained in paragraph [0049] of the present application. Thus, the invention involves looking at the characters preceding a breakpoint and taking the probability of those characters ending a word. Further, the method takes the characters following the breakpoint and determines the probability that those characters start a word. Such a method for assigning weights to breakpoints is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested in either of the cited references. Shapiro does not even address the issue of assigning weights to breakpoints. Rather, Shapiro assigns weights to words used in a search query. In accordance with Shapiro, the weight is computed as the “product of TF (Term Frequency) and IDF (Inverse Document Frequency).” (Shapiro, paragraph [0023]). There is no teaching, suggestion or disclosure in Shapiro or Carus of the weight assignment method taught by Applicant. For this reason, Applicant submits that claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom are allowable over the art of record.

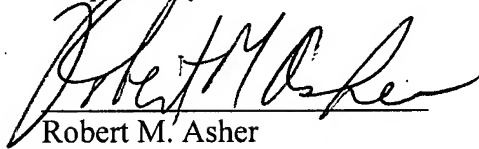
Claims 14 and 15 also refer to assigning weights by looking at the contexts that precede and follow a breakpoint. In claim 14, the weight of a context of one length preceding a breakpoint is combined with the weight for a context of a different length following the breakpoint. Claim 14 is supported by the example of “Assymetrical context” in [0051] of the present application. Neither Carus nor Shapiro suggest, disclose or teach looking to the weights of preceding and following contexts in order to provide a weight for a breakpoint. In claim 15, weights are assigned by weighting weights of a plurality of contexts of different lengths preceding and following a breakpoint. Claim 15

is supported by the example of "weighted context" in [0051] of the present application. Shapiro looks at the frequencies of the word for which a weight is being assigned. There is no teaching, disclosure or suggestion of the method of weighting different contexts before and following a breakpoint. For these reasons, Applicant submits that claims 14 and 15 are allowable over the art of record.

Claims 11-13 were objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has now rewritten claims 11, 12 and 13 in independent form putting them in condition for allowance.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that all claims pending in the application are now patentable over the art of record and early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Asher", is written over a horizontal line.

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